

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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COME-00 IGA-02 /045 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 093513

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID IBRD EG

SUBJECT: IBRD CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING

1. THE IBRD LED CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR EGYPT WILL MEET FOR
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THE FIRST TIME IN PARIS MAY 11-12. ABOUT 23 DONOR COUN-
TRIES AND INTERNATIONAL OR REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS WILL
PARTICIPATE.

2. ACCORDING TO IBRD PAPERS PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED,
THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CG ARE AS FOLLOW:

A. PROVIDE A FORUM FOR EGYPT TO INFORM INTERESTED DONORS AND INSTITUTIONS OF ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, GOALS AND PRIORITIES.

B. ENABLE PARTICIPANTS TO CONSIDER EGYPT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAMS IN A COMPREHENSIVE, CONTINUING FASHION.

C. PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND THEREBY ACHIEVE A HIGHER DEGREE OF COORDINATION.

D. FOSTER GREATER REGULARITY IN DECISIONS BY DONORS ON ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT.

E. HELP ADJUST THE CHARACTER AND TERMS OF AID TO EGYPT'S PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

F. REDUCE DUPLICATION OF EFFORT.

3. WE ENDORSE THE IBRD OBJECTIVES. THE RECENT REFORMS AGREED TO WITH THE IMF REPRESENT FIRST STEPS IN THE STABILIZATION OF EGYPT'S ECONOMIC SITUATION. IN THIS CONTEXT WE SEE CG AS A USEFUL MECHANISM FOR KEEPING A CONTINUING FOCUS ON EGYPTIAN NEEDS AND PERFORMANCE AND FOR ACHIEVING CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG DONORS AND BETWEEN DONORS AND EGYPT. WE SEE CG MECHANISM AS HELPFUL TO IMF/IBRD RELATIONSHIP THROUGH BROADENING OF DIALOGUE TO INCLUDE DONOR COMMUNITY AND THE CREATION OF A POSITIVE FRAMEWORK FOR LONGER TERM PROGRESS.

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4. WE HOPE FORTHCOMING CG WILL DEVELOP A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR EGYPT, RECOGNIZING THAT IT HAS UNDERTAKEN AN INITIAL PROGRAM TO RESOLVE ITS SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN THE FACE OF DIFFICULT INTERNAL POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES. WE ALSO FEEL THAT AN EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE EFFORT IS A CRUCIAL FACTOR IN EGYPT'S ABILITY TO PLAY A CONTINUING ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST PROCESS NEGOTIATIONS.

5. SUGGEST EMBASSIES DISCUSS WITH APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OUR INTEREST IN DEVELOPING A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE MEETING AND EXPRESS OUR INTEREST IN THIS MEETING AS THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS OF SYSTEMATIC CONSULTATION. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF ANY ISSUES ARE LIKELY TO BE RAISED BEYOND THOSE ALREADY COVERED IN THE IBRD AGENDA.

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